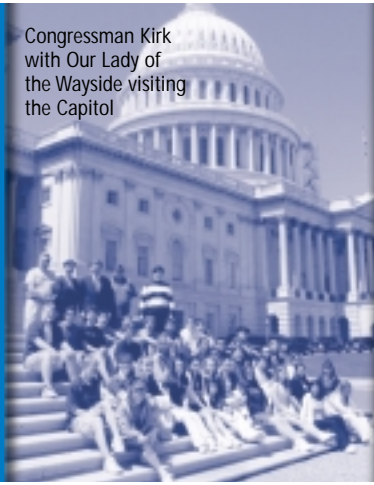




**TENTH  
CONGRESSIONAL  
DISTRICT**

Congressman Kirk  
with Our Lady of  
the Wayside visiting  
the Capitol



# REPRESENTATIVE MARK KIRK'S

## *Letters Home*

Summer 2002



### **SERVICE BY THE NUMBERS**

(January 1, 2001 - July 30, 2002)

**29,454**

Constituent Letters Answered

**2,057**

D.C. Tour & Ticket Assistance

**821**

Votes in This Congress

**229**

Bills Co-sponsored

**571**

U.S. Flag Requests

**140**

Eagle Scouts & Gold Award Recipients

**91%**

Weekends Home in the District

**18**

Days Relocated Due to Anthrax

### ***Setting Priorities:* National Security, Education and the Economy**

Dear Friends,

Congress is completing work after one of its most historic sessions. Our top priority is to restore our national security after the attacks of September 11, 2001. Congress provided new resources for our victorious men and women in uniform and will soon complete work on a new Homeland Security Law.

**We also provided increased resources to our schools and enacted reforms to make sure parents know how well their kids' schools are educating students.** The *No Child Left Behind Act* represents an achievement for both Republicans and Democrats that will make a big difference for school districts.

The House and Senate also adopted legislation creating new criminal penalties for securities fraud and increased fines for lying on financial statements. Once complete, this legislation will provide additional tools for federal law enforcement officers to prosecute white collar criminals.

It is an honor to serve you in Congress. Please contact me if you have issues of concern or need assistance with the federal government.

Very truly yours,

### **Congress and the War on Terror**

Victory came quickly for our servicemen and women in Afghanistan. The House supported the mission by approving a \$29 billion Supplemental Appropriations Bill to provide spare parts, fuel, ammunition and support to make sure our armed forces had what they needed to win.

While we have been successful so far, this war is far from won. Until terror is defeated, we must focus on defending our homeland from further attacks. Congress is completing work on President Bush's Homeland Security Law. Under the House legislation, key agencies will be joined under a Department of Homeland Security.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### Federal Boost for Special Education

Children with special needs require outside help to support their education. Federal law imposes a legal obligation on each school district to meet special education needs. Today, the government pays 15 percent of special education costs, short of the 40 percent originally promised. Local school districts cannot afford to carry the remaining cost of meeting this Washington mandate.

Congress is working to make the federal government honor its promise to fund special education programs. **Congressman Kirk is a cosponsor of legislation to mandate funding for special education at the promised level.** Until that legislation becomes law, he also worked to ensure a \$1 billion increase in federal support for special education in this year's budget.

### Metra Expands with Federal Help

Congressman Kirk recently joined Federal Transit Administrator Jenna Dorn to accept over \$54 million in federal aid to complete the next phase of Metra's North Central Rail Line expansion. This installment is part of the \$135 million in federal transportation funding committed to Metra last fall. **"Congressman Kirk's work was critical in securing funding for this project," Dorn said.**



Congressman Mark Kirk joins Federal Transit Administrator Jenna Dorn to accept over \$54 million in federal funding for Metra.

### Sailors Get New Facilities at Great Lakes

In a landmark agreement with the Veterans Administration, the Navy took title to 48 acres of land for the construction of \$200 million in new facilities for sailors at Great Lakes Naval Training Center.

Congressman Kirk brokered the land agreement between the VA and the Navy to allow the \$200 million improvement. **"The Navy told Congress this agreement will save \$16 million in construction costs by allowing for the faster completion of these needed facilities," Kirk said.**

The project will help create local jobs while improving the quality of life for our sailors. After completing training at Great Lakes, many sailors report directly to the fleet at duty stations in the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea.

### Aviation Security

As a member of the House Aviation Subcommittee, Congressman Kirk helped craft sections of the Aviation Security Act. Congressman Kirk recently joined Capt. Henry Krakowski, United Airlines vice president for corporate safety and security, to examine "Phase One" cockpit door security upgrades aboard a 767 aircraft.



Congressman Mark Kirk examines cockpit security upgrades with United Airlines Capt. Henry Krakowski aboard a 767 aircraft.

### Kirk Opposes Wasteful Agriculture Bill

During a war and recession, there is no place for new legislation to increase taxpayer subsidies for agriculture. Recently, Congress adopted a wasteful agricultural spending bill that boosted many subsidies by 70 percent.

**Congressman Kirk voted against this bill because we cannot afford it and it takes our economy in the wrong direction.**

Unfortunately, the bill passed by a vote of 280 to 141. Parts of the bill funded the wasteful sugar program that requires us to pay four times the world price for sugar and forgives loans to politically-connected sugar growers, costing the taxpayer over \$500 million annually.

### Medicare Prescription Drug Benefits Update

Congressman Kirk worked hard to secure passage of the Medicare modernization bill in the U.S. House of Representatives, which included a prescription drug benefit for all seniors. The legislation awaits Senate approval.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### Veteran's Hospital Saved



Congressman Kirk recently met with Defense Secretary Don Rumsfeld to discuss ways to save the VA hospital. Secretary Rumsfeld represented parts of our 10th district in Congress from 1963-1969.

Over 50,000 veterans in northern Cook and Lake Counties depend on the North Chicago Veterans Affairs Medical Center for their combat-related and other medical needs. During the last four years, there have been two attempts to close the hospital despite the growing number of veterans living in our suburbs.

**Congressman Kirk met with Veterans Affairs Secretary Principi and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld to propose a novel idea: combine the VA Medical Center with the Great Lakes Naval Hospital in a new "Federal" hospital serving veterans and active duty personnel alike.** Both Cabinet Secretaries agreed and parts of their sharing agreement are already in place.

### Environmental Cleanup at Vernon Hills Nike-Missile Site

Contamination from a Cold War air defense site delayed completion of a critical sports complex needed by Libertyville and Vernon Hills schools. The site contained old bunkers, laced with PCBs.

**Citing the need to clean up the environment and provide land for school sports, Congressman Kirk contacted Navy Secretary Gordon England for help.** Secretary England approved over \$3 million in funding to eliminate the contamination.

"This project is vital to the future of local schools and I am pleased the Navy could be a good environmental neighbor," England said.

### Bill to Protect Lake Michigan from Mercury Pollution



New research shows that mercury pollution is even more dangerous than previously thought. Lake Michigan is already contaminated with mercury and many of its fish are not edible by humans.

Under an agreement with Canada, the United States promised to reduce mercury emissions into the Lake by 50 percent. President Bush recently asked Congress to support his "Clear Skies Initiative" to cut airborne mercury pollution by 69 percent. These are positive steps, but more action is needed to stop mercury from polluting Lake Michigan.

**With support from the Lake Michigan Federation and the Sierra Club, Congressman Kirk authored legislation to make it harder for any new facility to pollute Lake Michigan with airborne mercury.** This legislation is needed to protect Lake Michigan and honor our international agreement with Canada.



### Homeland Defense in the 10th District

Congressman Kirk hosted Northern Illinois' first Congressional homeland defense conference, attended by 27 local police, fire and emergency medical agencies. White House staff and Federal Emergency Management Agency officials briefed our police and fire chiefs on the new \$3.5 billion "First Responder Initiative" funded by Congress. Applications are being submitted to upgrade Northern Illinois police and fire communications, supply and planning programs to support homeland defense.



## IN THE NEWS

### The NewsSun

Mom tells about loss of daughter to Ecstasy drug at town meeting:

#### Congressman Kirk's task force speaks out

Kate Patton appeared at Kirk's town meeting on drug awareness in Glenview Saturday, sharing her heart-wrenching story on lessons learned from her daughter's death. Patton is helping 10th District Congressman Mark Kirk wage war on Ecstasy, and other such dangerous drugs, as a member of Kirk's Drug Task Force, hoping to prevent similar tragedies.

May, 20, 2002

### Daily Herald

#### County, Waukegan area get \$5.8 million in grants

Federal tax dollars are coming home to Lake County in a big way, with the announcement Monday of more than \$5.8 million to fund dozens of projects involving housing, economic development and other public services. U. S. Rep Mark Kirk, who was joined by city and county officials and a representative of HUD, emphasized the need for housing assistance for seniors on fixed incomes. "This money helps Waukegan seniors stay in their home. There are a lot of seniors living on their Social Security checks, but their homes are falling down around them," he said. "We're not talking about turning the home into a palace, but restoring the basic integrity," Kirk said.

June 4, 2002

### Pioneer Press

#### \$70 million of work set at Great Lakes

The U.S. Department of the Navy and U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, announced a \$70 million contract as part of the \$1 billion boot camp revitalization project currently underway at Great Lakes. Funding is for the design and construction of multiple recruit barracks and infrastructure at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes.

May 23, 2002

### The NewsSun

#### Transit systems central to relief: Kirk

Better mass-transit systems, more roads and better-built roads are central to easing the region's traffic tie-ups, according to U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk. The congressman was leading a town hall meeting on traffic gridlock Sunday afternoon in Glencoe. "The congestion is endangering our environment, our business competitiveness and our quality of life," Kirk said.

June 24, 2002

### Chicago Tribune

FOUNDED June 10, 1847

#### Kirk opposes waste facility Mercury in lake a major concern

The battle to eliminate mercury from Lake Michigan intensified Monday as U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk joined environmentalists in opposing a \$26 million waste-treatment facility that would generate low levels of mercury. "The critical problem is air-borne mercury landing in Lake Michigan," Kirk said during a news conference with members of the Lake Michigan Federation and the Sierra Club. "Putting a sludge-burning factory right on the shore of Lake Michigan is the wrong way to go."

July 9, 2002

### Daily Herald

#### United pushes for stun guns for pilots

United Airlines and a suburban congressman urged federal regulators Tuesday to allow pilots to be armed with stun guns. Rep. Mark Kirk hopes the U.S. Department of Transportation will approve the guns, or TASERS, for use in cockpits by next week. Kirk called it a "common-sense middle ground" to give pilots security without the risk of firing bullets toward the cabin.

July 3, 2002

## TEST YOURSELF...

### Sixteenth president...

What jobs did Abraham Lincoln have before he was President?

- A. Grocery Clerk
- B. Postmaster
- C. Lawyer
- D. Lumberman
- E. Congressman
- F. All of the Above

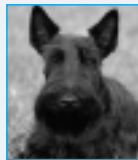
### Presidential pooches...

President Bush has two dogs. Connect their names to their faces

- A. Rover
- B. Stinky
- C. Spot
- D. Barney
- E. Old Yeller



White House photos  
by Paul Morse



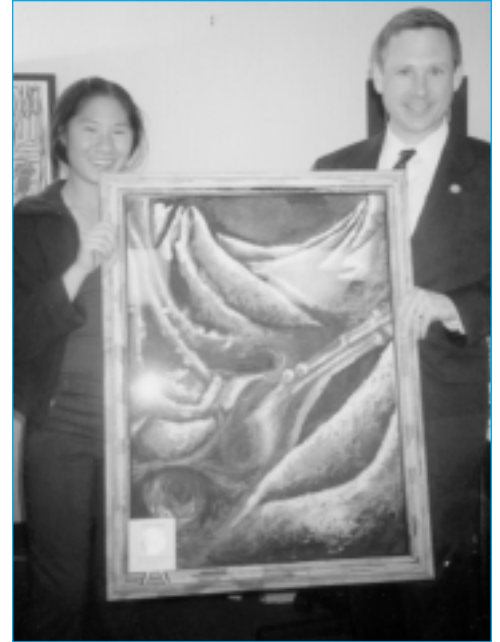
### Artistic discovery...

Congressman Kirk recently gave his Congressional Award for this painting. Who won?



- A. Louise Yeung of Northbrook
- B. Grandma Moses
- C. Vincent Van Gogh
- D. Pablo Picasso
- E. Claude Monet

### Top Art Honor Goes to Northbrook Student



Congressman Kirk awarded the top prize in the 20th Annual Congressional High School Art Competition to Glenbrook North High School student, Louise Yeung. Yeung's art work entitled, "Abstract Kitsch", hangs in the U.S. Capitol as part of a national exhibition with prize winning art from across the country.



### 10th District Military Academy Appointments

Congressman Kirk joined the Commander of Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Rear Admiral Ann Rondeau, to announce the appointment of seven outstanding local students to the United States military academies. The following appointments were made for the Class of 2006: U.S. Air Force Academy - Patrick Joseph McMahon (Arlington Heights) and Matthew Fuqua (Buffalo Grove). U.S. Naval Academy - John Keith (Kenilworth). U.S. Military Academy - Alice Kim (Glenview), Patrick Swanson (Lincolnshire) and John McCaskey (Winnetka). U.S. Merchant Marine Academy - Jarred Schwandt (Libertyville).

[Answer box: 1. F (All of the above), 2. C & D (Spot and Barney), 3. A. (Louise Yeung)]

## HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

### District Office

102 Wilmot Road, Suite 200  
Deerfield, IL 60015  
(847) 940-0202  
(847) 940-7143 fax

### Washington, D.C

1531 Longworth  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4835  
(202) 225-0837 fax  
E-mail: [rep.kirk@mail.house.gov](mailto:rep.kirk@mail.house.gov)  
[www.house.gov/kirk](http://www.house.gov/kirk)

### Waukegan Office

301 Washington Street  
Waukegan, IL 60085  
(847) 662-0101  
(847) 662-7519 fax

### Traveling to Washington D.C.?

Please contact our Deerfield office for Congressional tour passes. Please note that each Congressional office receives a limited number of passes, which are distributed on a first come, first served basis.



### Touring the Capitol

Students from Highland Park High School met with Congressman Kirk during their visit to Washington, D.C. in April.

### *Prescription Drug Assistance for Low-Income Seniors*

### Circuit Breaker/Senior Care

Are you:

- 65 years of age or older

AND is your income less than:

- \$22,000 for single seniors
- \$28,000 for couples

For further information, please call  
1-800-624-2459



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

*Official Business*

### Congressman Mark Steven Kirk

102 Wilmot Road, Suite 200  
Deerfield, IL 60015  
(847) 940-0202

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Kirk".

M.C.  
Presorted Standard  
ECRWSS

Postal Customer  
10th Congressional District  
Illinois